

Congressman Steve King today announced a \$428,000 federal appropriation for Northwestern College has been included in H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. President Obama signed the legislation into law Wednesday.

Funding will provide equipment for the nursing arts laboratory being built as part of the College's Health and Healing Nursing Project. The project is designed to meet the needs of Northwestern's growing Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, the staff educational needs of the Orange City Area Health System (OCAHS) and continued collaboration between OCAHS and Northwestern College.

"Our nation lacks nurses in rural areas, and Northwestern's Health and Healing Nursing Project is making great strides to address this shortage in western Iowa and beyond," King said. "This program provides Northwestern College with the opportunity to educate new nurses at an advanced level and train the medical professionals of tomorrow."

In requesting funding for this project, Congressman King complied with all earmark transparency standards, including a Congressional record submission that includes the name of the request and a description of how the funds will be spent.

When Congressman King initially requested the funding in early 2008, he did so with the understanding that his requests, and those of other members, would be addressed by the House through the normal appropriations process. Instead, all member requests were lumped into a single, 1,222 page, \$410 billion spending bill that was written behind closed doors, with no legislative review or formal member input. The bill was made available for public scrutiny less than 48 hours before Members voted on it.

As a result, Congressman King opposed H.R. 1105 during House consideration of the bill on February 25. The \$410 billion "omnibus" spending bill significantly expands the federal deficit and funds the federal government for a mere seven months. That's over \$58.5 billion in taxpayer dollars per month.